

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD-SEVENTH SPECIAL TDB-SUMMARY OF FIRST WEEK-
MARCH 8-12

1. MID-WAY THROUGH SPECIAL TDB MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR UNCATAD IV, THREE CONTACT GROUPS (ESTABLISHED TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 9) ARE MAKING PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH EXAMINATION OF MANILA DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION. GROUP B HAS MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IT CONSIDERS MANILA TO BE ONLY ONE AMONG OTHER DOCUMENTS TO BE NEGOTIATED AT NARIOBI, AND THAT IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN RE-DRAFTING EXERCISE OF MANILA TEXT. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES STATUS OF WORK IN THREE CONTACT GROUPS:

2. COMMODITIES. AS REPORTED SEPTELS, GROUP B DRAFTING SUB-GROUP MET THROUGHOUT WEEK TO FORMULATE COMMON GROUP B TEXT USING AS STARTING POINT EC TEXT, WHILE DRAWING
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HEAVILY FOR INITIAL PART OF PAPER ON GROUP B TEXT DEVELOPED

IN LAST DECEMBER'S COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES MEETING. CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION ON COMMODITIES BEGAN FRIDAY MORNING, WITH GROUP B SPOKESMAN (CUTTAT) RESPONDING TO POINTS IN MANILA DECLARATION ON BASIS OF GROUP B POSITIONS FROM LAST DECEMBER AND COMMON AGREEMENTS ALREADY REACHED IN THIS SESSION'S DRAFTING SUB-GROUP. DISCUSSION SO FAR A REHASH OF WELL-KNOWN G-77 DEMANDS AND GROUP B REBUTTALS, WITH G-77 PRESSING GROUP B FOR MORE EXPLICIT (E.G., WRITTEN) POSITIONS. CONTACT GROUP COMMODITY DISCUSSION EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AT LEAST THROUGH TUESDAY.

3. TRADE ISSUES. CONTACT GROUP NO. 1 COMPLETED PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH REVIEW OF MANILA TEXT DEALING WITH MANUFACTURES AND WITH MTN (SECTIONS TWO AND THREE OF MANILA ACTION PROGRAM). DISCUSSIONS CONSISTED ESSENTIALLY OF RESTATEMENTS OF WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. (SEE SEPTELS.) GROUP B SPOKESMAN HAS REPEATEDLY POINTED TO TOKYO DECLARATION AND UNGA SEVENTH SPECIAL RESOLUTION 3362 AS EXPRESSIONS OF GROUP B POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH NOTING WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS LDC DEMANDS IN APPROPRIATE FORUMS. GROUP B IS UNITED IN CONCERN THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS NOT INTERFERE WITH MTN. G-77 HAS DEFENDED MANILA TEXTS AND EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GROUP B HAS NOT ANNOUNCED NEW POSITIONS OR MADE COUNTERPROPOSALS. CHAIRMAN HAS SET ASIDE TIME ON MARCH 17 TO DISCUSS WHAT SHOULD BE RESULTS OF CONTACT GROUP'S WORK, BUT WE EXPECT THIS WILL BE REPORT TO TDB PRESIDENT OUTLINING POSITIONS OF EACH GROUP.

4. FINANCE AND RESOURCE TRANSFER. CONTACT GROUP NO. 2 (DEALING WITH SECTION FOUR, MANILA PROGRAM OF ACTION) SUSPEND THE FIRST WEEK EXCHANGING ARGUMENTS ON DEBT. DISCUSSION ALMOST ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO ISSUE OF WHETHER GENERAL DEBT RELIEF MEASURES ARE DESIRABLE AND RELATED TO QUESTION OF WHETHER A DEBT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD. GROUP B SPOKESMAN, (BLANC OF FRANCE) IN MODERATE TONE DOGGEDLY ARGUED FOR THE CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH AND THAT DECISION TO HOLD A CONFERENCE SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL WE CAN SEE MORE CLEARLY ITS NECESSITY. CLEARLY AT THIS TDB AT THIS TIME G-77 ATTACHES GREATEST IMPORTANCE AMONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE TRANSFER ISSUES TO DEBT PROBLEM. SECRETARIAT ALSO SEEMS TO FEEL ITS PRESTIGE INVOLVED IN PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE. GROUP B HAS BEEN OVERTLY FIRM AS GROUP TO USUAL POSITIONS TO DATE. NORDICS AND DUTCH, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN LISTENING QUIETLY. GROUP D GAINED ONE OF ITS FEW BOUQUETS FROM SECRETARIAT AND G-77 BY FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON PARTICIPATION IN AD HOC DEBTOR-CREDITOR CONFERENCE AS SUGGESTED IN GROUP OF

EXPERTS REPORT.

5. TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. CONTACT GROUP NO. 2 COMPLETED DISCUSSIONS OF SECTION V OF MANILA DOCUMENT ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ON MARCH 12. IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS MOVE IN THE G-77 TO TRY TO DEVELOP SOME FLEXIBILITY AMONG THE G-77 CONCERNING THE LEGAL NATURE OF THE CODE, WITH THE HOPE THAT GROUP B WILL GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THE ENTIRE CODE QUESTION AS WELL, IN AN EFFORT TO REACH A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DECISION AT NAIROBI. THEY ARE APPARENTLY GIVING SOME THOUGHT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A CODE WHICH WOULD CONTAIN SOME BINDING AND SOME NON-BINDING PROVISIONS. AN IDEA WHICH IS BEGINNING TO GERMINATE IN THE MINDS OF SOME OF THE DELEGATES FROM MAJOR GROUP B COUNTRIES IS THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP SOME FORM ON NON-LEGALLY BINDING CODE WHICH, AT THE SAME TIME, WOULD HAVE ELEMENTS OF SELF ENFORCEMENT. SUCH A SET OF GUIDELINES WOULD CONTAIN OBLIGATIONS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY SOURCES BALANCED WITH GUARANTEES BY RECIPIENTS OF TECHNOLOGY AND WOULD HAVE TO BE PROBABLY LINKED TO SOME PERIODIC REVIEW MECHANISM TO ASCERTAIN THE FULLFILLMENT OF THESE MUTUALLY ACCEPTED MOREAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. LEAST-DEVELOPED, LDC COOPERATION, AND EAST-SOUTH TRADE. CONTACT GROUP NO. 3 HAS COMPLETED DISCUSSIONS ON ITEMS 13 AND 14 (LEAST DEVELOPED, LANDLOCKED, ETC., AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG LDCS) AND HAS JUST BEGUN CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 15 (EAST-SOUTH TRADE). GROUP B HAS EXPRESSED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR ADOPTING SPECIAL MEASURES IN FAVOR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED BUT NOTED IN NUMEROUS INSTANCES THAT LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN LAST YEAR'S IGG RESOLUTION PREFERABLE TO MANILA TEXT. GROUP B SPOKESMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTED THAT WHILE DCS SYMPATHETIC TO SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF LANDLOCKED AND ISLAND COUNTRIES THEY UNABLE AT THIS STAGE TO GIVE THESE CATEGORIES SAME TREATMENT AS LEAST DEVELOPED OR TO ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR THESE CATEGORIES. GROUP D (SOCIALIST) COUNTRIES OBJECTED TO SEVERAL PORTIONS OF MANILA DOCUMENT, PARTICULARLY SECTION IIA PARAGRAPH 9. G-77 PRESSED GROUP D STRONGLY FOR REASONS FOR THEIR OBJECTIONS BUT RECEIVED NO EXPLANATION.

7. GROUP B GENERALLY SUPPORTED IDEA FOR INTRA-LDC CO-OPERATION CONTAINED IN SECTION 7 OF MANILA DOCUMENT BUT STRESSED GROUP B RESERVATIONS ON PRODUCERS ASSOCIATIONS, THE NEED FOR LDCS TO RESPECT THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, AND DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING NUMBER OF VAGUE OR ALL-EMBRACING MANILA FORMULATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN

PARAGRAPH. GROUP D TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO HAVE
REFERENCES TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN PARAGRAPH 3 DELETED.

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8. DISCUSSIONS ON BOTH FOREGOING ITEMS HAS BEEN RATHER
GENERAL, WITH NO ATTEMPT TO DRAFT NEW LANGUAGE. G-77
HAS SHOWN LITTLE OR NO INCLINATION TO MOVE AWAY FROM
MANILA TEXT ALTHOUGH THEY UNDERSTAND FULLY THAT MANILA
DOCUMENT NOT ACCEPTABLE AS IT STANDS. AFTER BRIEF
DISCUSSION OF ITEM 15 ON EAST-SOUTH TRADE CONTACT GROUP
WILL NEED TO COME TO GRIPS WITH WRITTEN CONCLUSIONS WHICH
ARE TO BE PREPARED BY CHAIRMAN. GROUP B APPEARS STRONGLY
DISPOSED TO OPPOSE CONCLUSIONS WHICH WOULD PREJUDGE NAIROBI
NEGOTIATIONS IN ANY CONCRETE WAY.

9. INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES. INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES HAVE NOT
YET BEEN DISCUSSED IN SUB-GROUP #3, AND THERE SEEMS
TO BE LITTLE MOVEMENT ON THIS QUESTION IN THE ABSENCE OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PAPER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS

PAPER IS NEARLY COMPLETED AND THAT IT CONTAINS FAIRLY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF UNCTAD TO MAKE IT A MORE EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATING FORUM. EITHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR TACTICAL REASONS, OR BECAUSE OF LAST MINUTE CHANGES, COREA HAS NOT YET RELEASED THE PAPER AND WE DO NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE IT DURING THIS MEETING. COREA DID ACCEPT INVITATION TO ADDRESS GROUP B ON HIS INSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS ON MARCH 16, WHICH WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO MAKE PRESENTATION SIMILAR TO ONE HE HAS ALREADY MADE TO THE G-77. TEXT OF COREA'S REMARKS MADE ON MARCH 1 TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UN RESTRUCTURING WAS RELEASED LAST WEEK. (COPY WAS SENT BY AIR POUCH TO J HINER, IO/CMD). ALL MAJOR POINTS IN THIS TEXT WERE REPORTED EARLIER IN USUN 846. THE G-77 WORKING GROUP, WHICH COREA SAID WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO GIVE GREATER SPECIFICITY TO THE INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE MANILA DOCUMENT, HELD ITS INITIAL MEETING MARCH 8. TDB PRESIDENT DADZIE TOLD MEMBER OF US DEL THAT THIS MEETING MERELY CONSISTED OF AN INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND THAT GROUP WOULD NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL AFTER THE TDB. DETAILED G-77 RECOMMENDATIONS ON INSTITUTIONAL REFORM ARE THEREFORE NOT EXPECTED AT THIS MEETING, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE G-77 MAY MAKE A GENERAL STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT LATER THIS WEEK.

10. COMMENT: G-77 SOLIDARITY HAS REMAINED UNBROKEN, AT LEAST ON THE SURFACE, TO DATE. WE EXPECT THAT UNDERCURRENTS OF INTRA-G-77 DIVISIONS WILL NOT RPT NOT SURFACE UNTIL DISCUSSIONS MOVE AWAY FROM THE MANILA TEXT AND BECOME FAR MORE PRECISE AND DETAILED THAN THEY LIKELY WILL BE AT THIS TDB. DALE

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